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December 2016 issue - No 66

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Greetings*

\$2.5bn project all the way from Memphis



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#66 EDITOR

Clean power steals the headlines in the December issue of wiredInUSA, with a \$2.5bn project to build an HVDC power transmission line between Oklahoma and Tennessee – the largest clean energy transmission project in the USA.

HVDC technology involves transmission systems built to convert alternating current to direct current, carrying more electricity over long distances, and then the power is converted back to AC.

The project, labeled as 'transformational', is expected to be fully operational sometime in 2020. The full story can be found on page 9.

Another project making the headlines is the completion of the USA shore landing for the 10,556km Monet submarine cable, connecting Boca Raton, Florida, to Fortaleza and Praia Grande, Brazil. The 100G cable system will provide a minimum bandwidth of 60Tbps between Brazil and North America. Turn to page 10 for the full details.

This is obviously the final issue of wiredInUSA for 2016 and all the team would like to wish our readers and advertisers Season's Greetings and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

David Bell
Editor

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#66 DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

in machine industries



© 2016 Intras Limited UK
ISSN 2046 - 9497
Publishers of EuroWire and
Wire & Cable ASIA magazines



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2017

MARCH

7-8 March 2017

ACME 2017

Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Conference

www.integer-research.com

MARCH

7-9 March 2017

AMI Cables 2017

Cologne, Germany
Conference

www.amiplastics.com

MARCH

23-25 March 2017

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Istanbul, Turkey
Exhibition

www.tel-fair.com

MAY

8-11 May 2017

Interwire

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Exhibition

www.wirenet.org

JUNE

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wire Russia

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MAKING THE NEWS

\$2.5bn project all the way from Memphis

A \$2.5 billion project has been announced, to build an HVDC power transmission line between Oklahoma and Tennessee. When built, the line is expected to be the largest clean energy transmission project in the US, taking power from Oklahoma to Memphis.

Power from Memphis will be distributed by the Tennessee Valley authority to other major power distribution systems in the south and southeast.

Michael Skelly, president of Clean Line Energy Partners, explained that the project will be the nation's first to take relatively cheap wind-generated electricity from a region where wind is abundant, and

carry it for 720 miles into a region where wind power is relatively scarce. The Houston-based company has four other HVDC projects underway.

HVDC technology involves transmission systems built to convert alternating current to direct current. The lines can carry more electricity over longer distances, and then the power is converted back to AC. Technology for the Oklahoma to Tennessee line will be provided by GE Energy Connections, where Russell Stokes, president and CEO of the GE subsidiary, called the project "transformational".

The line is expected to be fully operational sometime in 2020.



Image: TE Connectivity / TE subcom

Shore landing completed – with care

TE SubCom has completed the US shore landing for the 10,556km Monet submarine cable, connecting Boca Raton, Florida, to Fortaleza and Praia Grande, Brazil. The 100G cable system will provide a low latency route between Brazil and North America with a minimum bandwidth of 60Tbps.

“The design and deployment of a network as large and advanced as Monet is a very complex venture, and each stage is carefully considered against a number of factors,” said Chris Carobene, VP Marine Services, TE SubCom. “One of those considerations is the shore landing technique and its potential environmental footprint on the landing site. In the case of Monet, we used a horizontal directional drilling technique that’s designed to avoid

sensitive beach crossings and eliminate open trenching.”

“With our system supply partners at TE SubCom, we’ve seen tremendous progress on Monet in the past several months, making today’s US shore landing a very exciting milestone for all involved with the project,” said Javier Emicuri, chairman of Monet’s executive committee. “Latin America has a connected population of nearly 300 million and there has never been a greater demand for capacity. We are seeing an increase in local and regional deployment of LTE and FTTH networks, along with state of the art data centers that will deliver high quality content (HD/4K) and cloud-based services. The demand for these services makes bandwidth vital for the entire region.”



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Data center acquisition

Zayo Group Holdings has completed the \$12.8 million acquisition of a data center in Santa Clara, the company's first data center in northern California. The Bay area represents one of Zayo's most extensive metro dark fiber footprints, encompassing 1,500 route miles.

The facility includes 3MW of critical power. The location is adjacent to the recently completed Levi's Stadium and connects to multiple data centers in Silicon Valley via Zayo-owned fiber assets. The facility also includes a high-efficiency power and cooling infrastructure, seismic reinforcement and proximity to Zayo's long haul dark fiber routes between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"We have long targeted northern California as an expansion opportunity for our zColo data center business. The quality and high-power density of this facility is perfectly matched to the requirements of our leading-edge Bay area customers," said Chris Morley, COO at Zayo.

With the high concentration of technology, content companies and research labs, Silicon Valley is a highly strategic location for Zayo. This facility complements zColo's strong nationwide footprint, which is experiencing demand from cloud, content, service providers and traditional enterprise firms.

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Wind on target for Vietnam

Mainstream Renewable Power is to develop, build and operate three wind projects in Vietnam with a combined capacity of approximately 940MW.

The 800MW Phu Cuong wind farm will be executed in partnership with GE Energy Financial Services. Both Mainstream and GE Energy Financial Services have agreed to jointly acquire a share in the project, and to eventually develop 1GW of wind farms in Vietnam. The Phu Cuong project is with local partner Phu Cuong Group, who will remain involved in the project and its five development phases. The first phase, 150MW–200MW, is expected to reach financial close in 2018.

The 83MW Thai Hoa wind farm and 55MW Thai Phong Wind Farm are located in the Binh Thuan province in Vietnam, with a combined investment injection of approximately \$200 million. The first phase

of this project is anticipated to reach financial close in 2018.

Commenting on the announcement, Mainstream's COO, Andy Kinsella, said: "In terms of energy needs and requirements, Vietnam is one of the fastest growing markets in south east Asia. Through our global experience, Mainstream is well equipped to deliver high quality, low cost renewable energy thus assisting the Vietnam government increasing its renewable energy usage by 2020 and beyond. Investing in Vietnam is very much aligned with our aim of developing large scale renewable energy projects in high growth economies with significant demand for new-build power generation."

The Vietnamese government has established targets of generating 800MW by 2020 and 6,000MW by 2030.

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Safeguarding Canada's wildlife

WWF Canada has launched a new interactive decision-making tool to help identify regions of Canada offering high renewable energy potential and comparatively low conflict with the environment. The tool aims to speed the transition to a low-carbon future while ensuring key habitats and ecosystems thrive for wildlife and communities.

Initially applied in New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy region, the tool overlays renewable energy and conservation data on the same map. The energy layer reveals renewable energy reserves - the resource potential for each energy type across the region. The conservation layer captures data on 728 species at risk, as well as detailed information on biodiversity,

habitat and other conservation and community environmental uses for the entire area.

The goal of the tool is to help renewable energy project developers make decisions that account for wildlife, habitat, community and cultural needs from the outset, increasing the chance of a project's success before reaching the environmental assessment stage.

"An immediate and massive transition to renewable energy is the most important step we can take to slow climate change and possibly prevent some of the cascading negative effects on wildlife and habitat," said David Miller, WWF Canada president and CEO.

Manufacturers drawn together

The Rea Magnet Wire Company and Magnekon, a division of Viakable, have announced their intention to form a joint venture to serve magnet wire customers in North America. The transaction is currently under regulatory review in Mexico, due to governmental filing requirements.

The joint venture will combine the assets of both companies, and will include the Kemek enamel manufacturing plant.

Rea will own the majority interest in the venture, which will be named Rea Magnekon and be headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

"This agreement represents each organization's strong commitment to provide customers with the best overall value in magnet wire, and related wire products, and will better enable us to meet the expressed needs of our North American customers," said Scott Harrison, CEO/president of Rea Magnet Wire Company.

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Wet and dry solutions

TE SubCom and Ciena have agreed an alliance to further the advancement of open submarine cable networking solutions. Customers seeking a single point of contact for both wet plant and dry plant will have the option to combine TE SubCom's advanced wet plant designs and marine installation with Ciena's 6500 packet-optical platform, powered by WaveLogic™ coherent optics, creating a powerful and flexible undersea cable system.

The combination of Ciena's high-speed optics, underpinned by its OPn network philosophy including GeoMesh submarine solutions, and TE SubCom's wet plant cable solutions are expected to accelerate the transition toward software-defined submarine networks that offer ultimate capacity and reach, maximum resilience, greater programmability, and lower operating costs.

Recognizing the benefits of this enhanced customer choice, TE SubCom's Open Cables model will now also offer the option of buying a combined solution using fully qualified Ciena equipment on TE SubCom-designed wet plant. Customers can purchase this solution from TE SubCom, benefitting from a single point of contact and guaranteeing the performance of an end-to-end, turnkey lit system or, alternatively, can contract independently with TE SubCom for wet plant and Ciena for transmission equipment.

Gary Smith, president and CEO of Ciena, said: "Collaborating with TE SubCom will... give customers a more diverse range of options for network configuration."

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Awards time for CommScope.
Photograph courtesy of CommScope

Two in a row for technology co

CommScope Inc was selected by the North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA) as the 2016 winner of the Large Technology Company award at November's NC Tech awards gala in Raleigh.

The NCTA recognized CommScope for its portfolio of network infrastructure that includes robust and innovative wireless and fiber optic solutions. CommScope serves customers in over 100 countries, and employs approximately 25,000 employees globally with around 1,900 in North Carolina.

"Due to the insatiable demand for bandwidth, networks are evolving, converging and becoming more complex," said Eddie Edwards, president and chief executive officer, CommScope. "CommScope helps

companies evolve their networks to keep up with the demand. Because CommScope is headquartered in North Carolina, and has significant manufacturing operations here, winning this award makes tonight especially thrilling."

The NC Tech awards is North Carolina's only statewide technology awards program, recognizing companies and individuals who have characterized excellence, innovation and leadership in 25 categories. More than 900 technology leaders attended the event at the Raleigh Convention Center.

This is CommScope's second consecutive year to receive an award. In 2015 the company was given the Communications Technology award.



The Block Island wind farm.
Photograph courtesy of Deepwater Wind

Block Island monitor

Phoenix International Holdings and Ocean Tech Services (OTS) worked together to provide remotely operated vehicle (ROV) services in support of the Block Island wind farm (BIWF). BIWF is expected to be the first offshore wind farm in the US. It will be a 30MW, five turbine installation and is scheduled to be online by the end of 2016.

Working between April and July of 2016, Phoenix operated an inspection class ROV and completed a wide range of

underwater tasks associated with the installation of the power cables. Tasks included monitoring cable touchdown on the seafloor, prior to burial, monitoring cable pull-in at each offshore wind turbine platform, monitoring the installation of concrete protection mats at cable crossings, and monitoring the installation of cable protection ducting. Phoenix also integrated the Innovatum Smartrak system onto the ROV and used it to perform cable tracking and depth of burial measurements.

EUROPE NEWS



CEAM site

Image: www.lappkabel.com/press

DOUBLE ACQUISITION

Lapp has acquired CEAM Cavi Speciali of Italy, and Romania's SC Fender Cables. "The acquisition of CEAM strengthens Lapp's leading role in industry-standard data communication systems," said Andreas Lapp, chairman of the board of Lapp Holding. "Lapp has thus attained additional expertise and manufacturing capacities, especially in the fast growing industrial ethernet and fieldbus systems markets."

CEAM and Fender were formerly part of Cofima Holding, a business run by its founders, Franco and Carlo Magon. Lapp has a long-standing partnership with CEAM. Georg Stawowy, chief technical officer at Lapp Holding AG, said: "The takeover will help us to boost our successful branded products – Unitronic® and Etherline®."

Franco Magon emphasized that the Lapp Group and CEAM fit together well, not only in terms of technology and products but also in their values: "Ethics, innovation, performance and service — these values have been guidelines for CEAM," and Carlo Magon added: "This acquisition is very good news for CEAM, for our employees and for our customers, as it creates entirely new opportunities for growth and development."

Lapp will continue to run and support the companies' production sites. The Lapp Group wants CEAM's Monselice facility to be its competence center for industry-standard data transfer technology, with a research and development team and a test center. The group plans to develop solutions for fast and flexible data transmission for Industry 4.0.



Photograph courtesy of Primetals Technologies

Wire plant improvements

Primetals Technologies has been contracted by the Vietnamese wire and bar producer Vina Kyoei to upgrade the pinch roll and laying head in its Ba Ria-Vung Tau province wire rod mill. The addition of Primetals' SR series pipe is designed to extend the laying head pipe life and improve the laying pattern. An electrical and automation package is also supplied to integrate the new equipment. Commissioning is expected by early next year.

The scope of supply for this first direct contract with a Vietnamese wire rod producer includes a Morgan intelligent pinch roll and Morgan high speed laying head with SR series pipe, with the automation to interface with the existing control system. The new equipment has a design speed of 120m per second.

Established in 1994, Vina Kyoei Steel Ltd is a joint venture company with Kyoei Steel of Japan. Located outside Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam, operations have an annual design capacity of almost one million metric tons, supplying rebar, threaded deformed bars, plain round bars, angles and wire rod.



Photograph courtesy of EDF Energies Nouvelles

French floating pilot

EDF has been selected to construct a pilot floating wind farm for the French government's Provence Grand Large project. The project, subject to EDF's final investment decision, will also benefit from a state financing scheme backed by the Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maitrise de l'Energie (ADEME).

Under the deal with EDF, SBM Offshore (experienced in the gas and oil industries) would provide engineering, procurement, construction and installation services for the floating and mooring components for three floating wind systems.

The company also aims to collaborate with French research institute IFP Energies Nouvelles (IFPEN), to further develop the floating system and its engineering capabilities. If the project goes through, IFPEN will provide engineering services to SBM for the Provence Grand Large project.

The execution planning is still under discussion with EDF, authorities and other stakeholders, as the project is subject to financing.



UHV contract

ABB has won a \$40 million order to supply advanced power equipment to the 800kV Dianxibei-Guangdong UHVDC transmission link. The project, operated by China Southern Power Grid Company Limited, one of the country's two major grid operators, is expected to transmit 5,000MW of power over a distance of more than 1,950km.

The link will transmit hydro-power from Yunnan province, in southwestern China, to the Pearl River Delta region in Guangdong, one of the most densely urbanized regions in the world and a major economic and manufacturing hub for China. The link has the capacity to meet the annual power consumption needs of over ten million people based on average per capita national consumption. It will also help the region to significantly reduce coal consumption and mitigate carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide emissions.

"We are pleased that our advanced power technologies will enable the longest UHVDC link in southern China to deliver clean power to millions and lower environmental impact," said Claudio Facchin, president of ABB's power grids division.

Research funding

Vattenfall has shortlisted projects for a €3 million scientific research program to understand the environmental impacts of offshore wind.

Sixteen projects have been shortlisted by a specialist scientific panel comprising environmental agencies, scientists, AREG and representatives of Vattenfall. It is expected that the successful projects, from almost 100 applications, will be announced by the end of the year. The EU will provide up to half of the funding for the program, believed to be the first of its kind.

The shortlisted projects span topics such as analysis of distribution and movement of bird, mammal and fish species, looking at the effect of offshore wind on the environment and societies, as well as studies focused on geology.

Adam Ezzamel, project director for the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) at Vattenfall, said: "It is important to harness the EOWDC as an opportunity to conduct in-depth research into offshore wind at a full-scale, near-shore facility."

Panel members include renewable energy, heritage and conservation groups.



Cable consortium contract

TenneT TSO BV has contracted a consortium of VBMS and NKT to supply and install subsea cables. The cables will provide the grid connections for planned wind farms at Borssele, in the south-west of the Netherlands. The contract concerns cables for the Borssele Alpha wind farm area, with the VBMS/NKT consortium also the intended partner for Borssele Beta.

Marco Kuijpers, senior manager offshore Netherlands at TenneT, said of the contract signing: "It is good to see that our international tender procedure was completed entirely according to plan, and in line with the ambitious cost reduction targets laid down in the national energy agreement. Together with the VBMS/NKT consortium, we will set to work on the construction of the first large-scale offshore grid connection for wind farms in the Dutch sector of the North Sea.

"This project will make a significant contribution to the realization of the Dutch government's ambitions for renewable electricity generation as laid down in the national energy agreement."



Cables come to port

The Port of Rotterdam's Maasvlakte North zone has been identified as the most suitable landfall location for onshore cables to connect four 350MW offshore wind farms in the Hollandse Kust (zuid) zone to the grid.

The offshore grid at Hollandse Kust will consist of two offshore substations, with two subsea power cables exporting the electricity to the shore, underground land cables, and an onshore transformer substation at Maasvlakte. TenneT is the developer and operator of the offshore grid.

TenneT's cable between the wind farm and Maasvlakte will contribute to a positive investment climate for this kind of new activity, the port said, adding that sustainable electricity will become increasingly important for the Port of Rotterdam as a substitute for fossil fuels in production processes.

The four wind farms at the Hollandse Kust (zuid) zone will be connected to the grid between 2018 and 2021.



Crosslinking sale

Leoni has sold a subsidiary, Leoni Studer Hard GmbH, to Ionisos SAS, a France-based specialist in ionizing radiation. “By selling this activity, Leoni is making the first step in streamlining the scope of its wire and cable solutions division. This process is part of our strategy to develop a more solution-oriented business model,” said Bruno Fankhauser, member of the management board of Leoni AG in charge of the wire and cable solutions division.

The Leoni Studer Hard plant in Bautzen, Germany, which employs around 30 employees and has two electron beam accelerators, provides irradiation crosslinking services to third-party customers. Ionisos SAS intends to continue and further enhance the business.

Leoni will maintain and concentrate its irradiation crosslinking service business in Däniken, Switzerland, and continue to serve its external customers. With its equipment in Däniken, Leoni is also able to provide sterilisation services for medical and pharmaceutical products.

The process of electron beam treatment allows Leoni to refine cables and other products making them, for example, more resistant to abrasion, chemicals, solvents and temperature fluctuation.

Europe reviews its anti-dumping process

The European Commission has published proposals for a new method of calculating dumping on imports from countries where there are significant market distortions or state intervention. It aims to ensure that Europe has trade defense instruments able to deal with current realities, while respecting its international obligations.

It says the EU needs to ensure that its trade defense instruments remain effective in dealing with significant market distortions in certain countries that can lead to industrial over-capacity, and that encourage exporters to dump their products on the EU market.

The commission also proposes to strengthen EU anti-subsidy legislation so that any new subsidies revealed in the course of an investigation can also be investigated and included in the final duties imposed. The commission appears to be avoiding a response to China's expectation that it be granted “market economy status”, while the US is adamant that China should continue to be treated as a non-market economy.

The proposal now requires the approval of both the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

ASIA & AFRICA NEWS

CABLE SHIP LAUNCH

NTT Communications Corporation (NTT Com), NTT World Engineering Marine Corporation (NTTWEM) and NTT Finance Corporation (NTT Finance) have held a launching ceremony for *Kizuna*, their new submarine cable laying vessel.

Construction of the 8,500-ton ship, which measures 109m long and 20m wide, with a planned average cruising speed of 13 knots, will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2016. *Kizuna* will be owned by NTT Finance and leased to NTTWEM when required.

NTTWEM parent company NTT Com and other telecommunication companies and service providers, will utilize *Kizuna* and three other vessels operated by NTTWEM to lay and maintain submarine cables used for delivering network and cloud services.

An ROV equipped with a jet cable laying system and with a maximum operating depth of 2,500m will be part of the new vessel's equipment.

Kizuna has also been designed to assist during disaster recovery operations, for example through the rapid shipment of containers and other supplies.

The vessel can transport disaster recovery vehicles and emergency cellular network base stations, as well as satellite communication facilities and temporary

accommodation for NTT group employees working in disaster zones.

NTT Com plans to deploy *Kizuna* for cable laying in congested Japanese waters, while its larger sister vessel, *Subaru*, will be used mostly overseas.



▲ The launching ceremony for the *Kizuna*

The name of the new vessel was chosen following an internal poll of NTT Com employees. The Japanese word “kizuna” signifies the connection between people, and between people and things. The calligraphy of the Japanese character for “kizuna” that appears on the ship’s body is the work of Tetsuya Shoji, president and CEO of NTT Com.



Joint venture for Fiji

Sri Lankan Sierra Cables will be a joint investor in a new power cable manufacturing plant in Fiji.

Sierra Cables has entered the joint venture with three Fijian companies, namely Vinod Patel & Co Ltd, RC Manubhai & Co Ltd and Progressive Investments Ltd. Sierra Cables will provide 30 percent of the investment costs, as well as sharing technical expertise and market knowledge.

California contracts

Taihan Electric Wire Co of South Korea has secured a \$56 million order from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to replace its aging 138kV ultra-high voltage underground cables.

Taihan Electric Wire will supply new cables and connecting devices and carry out overall construction to modernize the old cables that were installed in 1960s and 1970s.

The latest order has helped Taihan Electric Wire to a quarterly milestone of \$100 million worth of cable supply deals in the US since the beginning of October.

In October, Taihan Electric Wire received a \$52 million order from a power company in California to supply 230kV ultra-high voltage underground cables and connections. The massive project involves line construction up to 20km.

Taihan Electric Wire has also signed a five-year contract to supply 69kV to 230kV ultra-high voltage underground cables to a regional power company in California and, in addition, Southern California Edison has ordered high capacity aluminum conductor composite core conductors to replace aged aerial cables.



Talal Said Al Mamari,
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Tidal power on-stream

Singapore-based Atlantis Resources Ltd has announced that power has been produced from Phase 1A of the 398MW MeyGen free stream tidal power project in Scotland. James Fisher Marine Services Ltd, using the *Olympic Ares* vessel, installed the first turbine at the project site in the Pentland Firth the previous week.

The turbine, supplied by Andritz Hydro Hammerfest (AHH), is now connected to the onshore control center and grid export point via a pre-laid cable. Atlantis confirmed that, following extensive onshore turbine testing, AHH and the converter's supplier, ABB Ltd, are currently powering up the turbine to tune the control system for optimized generation.

The AHH machine is the first of four planned 1.5MW turbines to be installed as part of Phase 1A. Atlantis expects to begin construction work on the next 6MW phase in 2017.

Cable interconnection

Omantel Wholesale will interconnect two cable systems, Gulf to Africa (G2A) and Silk Road Gateway - 1 (SRG-1), to deliver ultra-low latency networking between Asia and Africa. The cable systems connect some of the world's fastest growing markets using geographically diverse terrestrial and undersea cable infrastructure.

SRG-1 connects Oman to Pakistan with onwards connectivity to Afghanistan, China, Iran, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. G2A connects Oman to Somalia via two redundant landing stations in Puntland (Bosaso) and Somaliland (Berbera). The system provides onward connectivity to Ethiopia and will connect Kenya, Mogadishu and South Africa in later phases.

"We are the only provider in the world that is able to offer rapid access between Asia and Africa via geographically diverse routes. The development and interconnection of G2A and SRG-1 demonstrates our commitment to delivering ultra-low latency networking in unique and challenging markets. We are supporting the growth of trade between China and Africa with new diversity and high performance networks," said Talal Said Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel.



Top speed to Kuwait

The government of Kuwait has successfully achieved a speed of 10Gbps, upstream over a single fiber, during laboratory tests of Nokia's XGS-PON fiber technology. This is the first time such a speed has been achieved in the Gulf Cooperation Council region. The success will allow the government to offer enhanced speeds from the current 1GB per second to 10Gb symmetrical.

Nokia's XGS-PON technology makes it possible for service providers to offer new, high speed services to customers over their existing networks.

In 2006, the Kuwait government was the first to roll out GPON in the GCC region, and with this test it maintains its position as a pioneer in FTTH technology. With Nokia's GPON approach, supported by its acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent, the government will not only leverage the existing fiber network but also expand current subscriber bandwidth.

Kazakh plant launch

Tokyo Rope has launched a new plant in the Kazakh city of Almaty. The plant will produce a variety of metal products, including heavy duty grids for gabion manufacturing.

The plant has an initial projected capacity of 5,000 tons of metal products per year, which is expected to increase. The company's output will be utilized in Kazakhstan, and supplied to the CIS states and other countries.

Amongst other products, Tokyo Rope manufacture steel wire ropes, guy ropes for bridges, steel wire cords for tires and wire for the solar industry.

The plant was launched by Kazakh head of state Nursultan Nazarbayev, via a video conference during his state visit to Japan.



Yves Schaeffer,
CEO of Ezecom



Photograph courtesy of EGA

New cable for Cambodia

A new 1,300km MCT cable system is planned to position Cambodia as the gateway to Asia, enabling the country to harvest the Asia traffic and extend connectivity to ASEAN and the rest of the world via Malaysia.

Yves Schaeffer, CEO of Ezecom, said: "We are very excited to announce that Cambodia's first submarine cable is about to arrive, and Ezecom will be the first ISP in Cambodia to own this submarine cable. We are going to launch landing station building in Sihanoukville on 16th December."

The MCT cable system, which cost around \$70 million, will land at Cambodia's Preah Sihanouk province, Thailand's Rayong province and Malaysia's Kuantan (Cherating). All three landings are completed and ready to receive the cable.

The cable will be transferred to the main lay vessel, *Bold Maverick*, before proceeding to begin development work from Cherating.

Hot metal takes to the road

Emirates Global Aluminium's (EGA) Al Taweelah smelter is to deliver molten liquid metal to its customers in the Khalifa industrial zone, Abu Dhabi, using a dedicated Hot Metal Road – the first in the UAE to link separate industrial sites.

The inaugural hot metal customer is Ducab Aluminium Company which produces aluminum electrical cables.

Receiving aluminum as molten metal eliminates the need for companies like Ducab Aluminium Company to use high energy to re-melt it before use. This saves both costs and environmental emissions, increasing the competitiveness of the growing UAE aluminum fabrication industry.

EGA has developed a dedicated, state-of-the-art liquid metal transfer facility, which is capable of 24-hour operation. The facility transfers molten metal, by overhead crane, to preheated 14.5 tonne crucibles which can keep the metal liquid for up to 18 hours at temperatures of around 780°C.

The crucibles are mounted on highly secured trailers and driven to customers.

PRODUCTS
MACHINES
TECHNOLOGY



Safety up its sleeve?

TE Connectivity has launched its Instalite ZH-150 sleeving for mechanical and electrical protection.

The tubing meets existing and future zero-halogen requirements for limited fire hazard protection across multiple platforms and environments.

Military and marine systems require products capable of withstanding a variety of extreme conditions, including wide temperatures, abrasions and fluid, while being lightweight and flexible.

Instalite ZH-150's crosslinked material is said to be halogen free, flame retardant and fluid resistant with a wide operating temperature range from -75° to $+150^{\circ}\text{C}$. The sleeve is also highly flexible for easy handling in small spaces.

"This new breakthrough in materials science will enable our customers to design a single protection system across multiple environments, offering fluid resistance, abrasion resistance and high temperature performance married with the benefits of having zero halogen and limited smoke around sensitive electrical equipment and human life — all this with the benefit of saving weight," said Andy Poole, product manager of global aerospace, defense and marine at TE Connectivity.

With a two-to-one shrink ratio in eight sizes, the Instalite ZH-150 sleeve aims to reduce the time and cost of installation in electrical and mechanical systems.

The lightweight design will help improve fuel efficiency and weight distribution across various platforms for harsh environments.

"Rescue" for flexible PVC

PolyOne has launched SynPlast™ L9TM plasticizer, containing equivalent performance characteristics to 810TM linear plasticizer.

The new SynPlast option for flexible PVC helps counteract historic supply chain disruptions of 810TM, and is formulated for use in wire and cable and automotive slush molding PVC applications.

Flexible PVC compounders have traditionally relied on 810TM to achieve critical performance properties at both elevated and low temperatures. When 810 alcohol became scarce in 2013, a global supply shortage of 810TM plasticizer prompted the search for alternatives.

In cooperation with a leading wire and cable PVC compounder, PolyOne's cross-functional synthetic esters team began developing another option.

The result of their research is SynPlast L9TM plasticizer, which uses linear 9 alcohol to achieve the same performance properties as 810TM, but with easy availability.

"The 810TM shortage could have spelled disaster for our wire and cable compounding customers," said Don Wiseman, general manager, performance products and solutions at PolyOne. "The foresight and

expertise of PolyOne's synthetic esters team, combined with PolyOne's manufacturing agility, enabled rapid development, production and delivery of a cost-effective alternative."

How green is my building?

Several product groups from Belden Inc now have transparency documents that contribute toward LEED building certification. The documents include environmental product declarations (EPDs) and material health assessments (Product Lens™).

The US Green Building Council's LEED v4, the most current version launched in 2013, focuses on products used in construction and how they impact human health and the environment. Based on the number of LEED points earned, out of a maximum of 110, a building receives one of four rating levels for green design, construction, operations and/or maintenance —certified, silver, gold or platinum.

Building owners can earn up to four points through LEED materials and resources credits by using at least 20 different permanently installed products (including cable) from at least five different manufacturers, with transparency documents.

Cable with an EPD and/or Product Lens can contribute to LEED points.

Belden's EPDs and material ingredient documents are all third-party verified by

UL Environment. Belden's Product Lens documents are easy to read and provide chemical assessments for every stage of a product's lifecycle.

Belden is currently producing the necessary documentation to qualify for LEED credits on several standard products, including Category 5e, 6 and 6A cabling.

Tough and tactical

AFL is introducing a micro-tactical cable. Designed for rapid deployment in networks that require high mechanical performance specifications, AFL's micro-tactical cable is designed for ruggedness with ultra-high fiber density.

The military-grade cable withstands high tensile loads, severe crushing forces, repeated impacts and extreme temperatures.

"Innovation in tactical fiber optic cables has been largely stagnant for the last several years," explained Craig Stratton, market and development manager for AFL. "AFL recognized a need to offer a high fiber count solution to meet the increasing demand for reliable signal transmission in harsh environments."

With fiber counts up to 96, the micro-tactical cable is believed the highest fiber count military grade tactical cable currently available.

The higher fiber density allows for longer deployment lengths without sacrificing

bandwidth and, with longer assembly lengths, optical connections are reduced.

A range of tactical cable jacket materials allow the cable to be used in areas where it may be exposed to high temperatures, wet locations, industrial chemicals and severe mechanical stresses.

For testing times

A new, rugged, rapid-throughput tester for wire terminal strength is available from Mecmesin. The CrimpTest-1kN is designed to be accurate, but easy to use, requiring minimal training and maintenance.

Motorized pull testers are said to improve accuracy and reduce operator strain and injury.

For added safety, this ergonomically designed horizontal tester pulls samples away from the user.

A single button press runs a test, and four multi-function buttons provide for all settings, operation and output to an RS232 statistical printer. Peak force at break is displayed along with clear pass or fail indication.

Four speed settings are available: 25, 50, 100 and 200mm per minute to comply with all regular test standards. Units of force can be displayed in N, kgf or lbf.

The CrimpTest-1kN bench tester is designed for continuous use within the production environment, and is IP52 rated against ingress from dust, wire fragments and

water. Versatile fixtures are available for pull testing cable ties, and crimped, soldered or welded terminals, to 1kN.

Cables get smart

igus now offers over 30 types of ethernet cable, exclusively designed to suit a wide range of dynamic industrial applications and mechanical requirements for reliable data sharing throughout “smart” factories. Cat7 ethernet cables increase the data transfer rates of Cat5e and Cat6 cables by up to ten times to increase the communication inside Industry 4.0 facilities.

igus is believed to be the first manufacturer to supply Cat7 cables for dynamic applications, and offers Cat7 cables in three jacket material options for rolling flex applications, as well as a torsional Cat7 option for robotic applications.

Immunity to electrical interference, and substantially higher rates of data transmission, are important benefits to Industry 4.0 factories and equipment manufacturers.

As with igus’s chainflex cables, chainflex fiber optic options are designed and tested to withstand up to 36 months of continuous-flex performance.

To suit all other mechanical requirements, a range of fiber optic chainflex cables are available, including those for harsh environments or torsional movements.

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The screenshot shows the wiredInUSA website interface. At the top, there are several article thumbnails with the text 'READ WATCH SHARE IT'. Below the thumbnails is a blue banner with the text 'You can get all the latest news daily'. At the bottom of the banner are two social media icons: a Twitter icon with the text 'Follow us on Twitter' and a Facebook icon with the text 'Like us on Facebook'.



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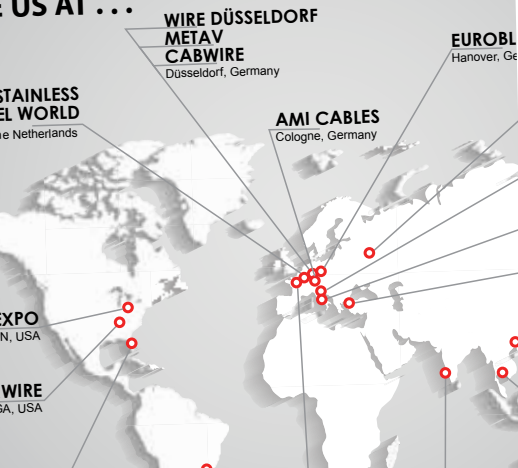
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